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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/747,000	12/21/2000	John Dawson	BEV9	2939

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TRINH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3726	[REDACTED]

DATE MAILED: 04/15/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/747,000

Applicant(s)

DAWSON, JOHN

Examiner

Trinh T Nguyen

Art Unit

3726

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 January 2003.
 - 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 - 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.
- Disposition of Claims**
- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4,5 and 14-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 - 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 - 6) Claim(s) 1-3,6-13,20,21 is/are rejected.
 - 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 - 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3)<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4)<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____. 5)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6)<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |
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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carlin et al. (US 4,838,068).

For claim 1, Carlin et al. disclose a method for forming end-lengths of pipe joints having an inner pipe diameter and an outer pipe diameter so as to provide desired final dimensions sufficient to increase the critical area at the end of thread engagement for an integral threaded connection comprising the steps of: machining a predetermined length of the pipe joint so as to effect a desired first configuration; swaging the first configuration to have a desired inner second and outer third configurations; and machining the end-length to effect the desired final dimensions for the end-length (see lines 1-65 of col. 4 and lines 20-45 of col. 8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2, 6-9, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlin et al. (US 4,838,068).

Carlin et al. further disclose the steps of forming a box by swaging outwardly the first configuration to have a desired inner second configuration and a desired outer third configuration having an outer diameter larger in dimension than the original pipe outer diameter and machining the end-length to effect the desired final box dimensions such that the box thread maximum diameter exceeds the pipe outer diameter (see lines 1-65 of col. 4 and lines 20-45 of col. 8).

Carlin et al. disclose the claimed invention except the specific step of forming a box by cutting a counterbore of predetermined length so as to provide a desired inner first configuration as claimed in claim 2. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method of Carlin et al. to have included a use of any known cutting technique to cut a counterbore of a box length, since such specific technique is well known and an obvious expedient depending upon cost, material strength requirement, as well as time constraints of the overall manufacturing operation.

For claim 6, note that Carlin et al.'s first inner configuration comprises: a substantially conical surface extending substantially from the pipe bore and increasing in diameter toward the pipe end; and a second annular surface (6a & 6b) positioned intermediate the conical surface and pipe end (see Figure 6).

For claims 7-9, note that Carlin et al.'s second surface is substantially cylindrical and/or conical and/or curved (see Figure 6).

For claim 20, it is noted that an Official Notice is taken that the concept of using a swaging mandrel to perform a swaging procedure is old and well known technique commonly used throughout the art of metal deforming. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method of Carlin et al. to have used a swaging mandrel to swage the box, in light of the Official Notice taken, in order to optimize the swaging procedure and thus reduce the overall manufacturing cost.

5. Claims 3, 10-13, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlin et al. (US 4,838,068).

Carlin et al. further disclose the steps of forming a pin by swaging inwardly the first configuration to have a desired outer second configuration and a desired inner third configuration having an inner diameter of smaller in dimension than the pipe inner diameter and machining the end-length to effect the desired final pin dimensions such that the pin thread minimum diameter is less than the pipe inner diameter (see lines 1-65 of col. 4 and lines 20-45 of col. 8).

Carlin et al. disclose the claimed invention except the specific step of forming a pin by machining a predetermined end-length of the pipe to a desired outer first configuration as claimed in claim 3. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method of Carlin et al. to have included a use of any known machining technique to machine the

end-length of the pipe to a desired configuration, since such specific technique is well known and an obvious expedient depending upon cost, material strength requirement, as well as time constraints of the overall manufacturing operation.

For claim 10, note that Carlin et al.'s first outer configuration comprises: a substantially conical surface extending substantially from the pipe outer diameter and reducing in diameter toward the pipe end; and a second annular surface (3a & 3b) positioned intermediate the conical surface and pipe end (see Figure 3).

For claims 11-13, note that Carlin et al.'s second surface is substantially cylindrical and/or conical and/or curved (see Figure 3).

For claim 21, it is noted that an Official Notice is taken that the concept of using a suitable annular swaging tool to perform a swaging procedure is old and well known technique commonly used throughout the art of metal deforming. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method of Carlin et al. to have used a swaging tool to swage the pin, in light of the Official Notice taken, in order to optimize the swaging procedure and thus reduce the overall manufacturing cost.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 6-13, 20, and 21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trinh T Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 306-9082. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 A.M to 6:00 P.M).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Vidovich can be reached on (703) 308-1513. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3579 for regular communications and (703) 305-3579 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

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April 13, 2003



GREGORY VDOVICH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700